



# ANCHORAGE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



PRESIDENT FRED WEGMER  
KL7HFM 274-3464  
CLUB PHONE: 345-0719

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SEPTEMBER 1992 SEPTEMBER 1992 SEPTEMBER

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September 4th GENERAL MEETING 7 PM Room 102  
Carr-Gottstein Building Alaska Pacific  
University. East end of 36th Ave. First  
Building on the left. Use parking Lots.

## P R O G R A M

"Louise Stewart of the Anchorage FCC Office"

What's new since her last visit in 1991?

Come and find out! !

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September 5th Seward Hwy (Potter Marsh) Clean UP Day  
Meet at Parking Lot 7 AM

September 9th BOARD Meeting 7 PM Room 104  
Carr-Gottstein Bldg APU Campus

September 26th and 27th HAMFEST/FLEA MARKET  
Site not selected at Press time ! !

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EDITOR-HARVEY ROOKUS - NL7DK  
3310 CHECKMATE DR. ANCHORAGE  
ALASKA 99508 (907) 333-4693

## Calendar 1991-1992



## July 1992

General Mtg 3rd  
Board Mtg 8th  
PARKA Mtg 25th

## August

General Mtg 7th  
Board Mtg 12th  
PARKA Mtg 29th  
BUSH Net Picnic 15th

## SEPTEMBER

GENERAL MTG 4th  
BOARD MTG 9th  
FLEA MARKET/Hamfest 26/27  
PARKA MTG ???

## October

General Mtg 2nd  
Board Mtg 14th  
PARKA Mtg 31st

## November

General Mtg 6th  
Board Mtg 11th  
PARKA Mtg 28th

## December

Club Christmas Party 4th  
Board Mtg 9th  
PARKA Mtg 28th

## January 1993

General Mtg 8th  
Board Mtg 13th  
PARKA Mtg 26th

## February

General Mtg 1st  
Board Mtg 13th  
Fur Rondy - Grand Prix 16th  
- Dog Races 22/23/24  
Iditarod Sled Dog Races  
PARKA Mtg 23rd

## March

General Mtg 1st  
Board Mtg 13th  
PARKA Mtg 23rd

## April

General Mtg 5th  
Board Mtg 10th  
PARKA Mtg 27th

## May

General Mtg 3rd  
Board Mtg 8th  
Walk For Hope  
PARKA Mtg 22nd

## June

General Mtg Election 4th  
Board Mtg New/Old 9th  
Field Day 26/27  
PARKA Mtg 26th  
Motley Picnic (Byers Lake)

If there are any Additions or Corrections to the Calendar,  
please call NL7DX at 333-4693. Thanks!

FOR SALE - WANTED - MISC.

For Sale

HW-8 QRP CW transceiver and matching power supply  
Heathkit HD-10 Keyer  
Cushcraft R-3 half wave vertical antenna  
Swan TH-4 4 element tri-band beam antenna  
Commodore 128 computer with 1571 disk drive, Comrex printer,  
Apple III monitor, Morse University ROM cartridge and other  
software. AL7MO Richard Evenings/weekends 248-9191

HAMFEST/FLEA MARKET SEPTEMBER 26th and 27th

HELP HELP HELP HELP

Don't forget that the Hamfest/Flea Market doesn't get done by  
itself!! Lots of help is needed.. Call Susan NL7NN at  
243-5833 and VOLUNTEER.. DON'T WAIT TO BE ASKED!!!

## AARC General Meeting Minutes 8-7-92

President Fred Wegmer KL7HFM opened the meeting with introductions at 7:04 PM.

John NL7NC presented the club with a certificate representing the purchase of a brick for the Anchorage Town Square. The brick is inscribed with Anchorage Amateur Radio Club, KL7AA.

John also reports that packet is still up and running. He is having problems with too many retries when running 9600 Baud. He will work on the problem.

KL7HFQ presented several copies of the FCC notice of proposed rule-making placing all novice tests under the VEC system. You are urged to send in your comments to the FCC on this issue.

Peter Bailey asked the club if a broadcast station running a special contest or event could cause a complete tie-up of telephone lines. He was told by KL7YF that this was very unlikely to happen.

KL7CQ (yes, you read it right!) the Great got up and spoke a few words as a special guest speaker, telling stories on the club president, AND admitting to having a CB RADIO in his vehicle.

President Fred KL7HFM discussed the formation of a subsidiary corporation devoted to the purpose of education, and getting the club's IRS status changed to 501C3. A committee would be appointed to form the institute and draw up a constitution and by-laws. It will be a small organization and will run itself. The requirements will be minimal and the activities would be geared to education. Fred fielded questions regarding the institute. The general membership voted to establish the subsidiary institute for educational purposes and to change the AARC's tax status from tax-exempt to nonprofit.

The program was a Chinese auction in which everybody walked away with a boat anchor! (Fortunately for KL7YF, his was small!)

The monthly raffle was held. The evil genius activity manager, Richard AL7MO, concocted a plot in which three bags of M&M's were hidden behind three doors. Lil NL7DL didn't get any of them. She didn't even win a chance to find them behind the doors!! What kind of plot will the evil genius Richard hatch for next month's raffle? Fortunately for Lil, a kindly ham took pity on her and gave her the bag he had won.

Please remember the August 19th club social at 7:00 PM at the Royal Fork.

Also please set aside September 5th at 9AM for the next Potter Marsh Highway cleanup. Contact Harley KL7IZZ for more information at 345-1530.

The eatin' after the meetin' was held at Elmer's as usual. Lil was Pig of the Year, as usual.

(For some Reason This is) Respectfully Submitted,

Lil Marvin NL7DL

P.S. Don't forget the AARC ham classes which start Sept. 29th. Classes will be Tues/Thurs eves 6:30 to 9:00 at Central Lutheran Church on the corner of 15th and Cordova and will run for 8 weeks. Classes will cover novice, both technician, and general levels. Contact Rick KL7YF or Lil NL7DL at 277-6741 for more information.

## AARC Boardmeeting Minutes 8-12-92

The Anchorage Amateur Radio Club boardmeeting was opened at 7:10 PM by President Fred Wegmer KL7HFM. Also present were the following boardmembers: AL7ID, AL7LD, NL7UH, KL7FXH, NL7DL, A7MO, NL7VR, AL7NK, NL7NC, AL7BK, AL7BB, KL7ITI, WL7IHE. The following clubmembers were also present: WL7DZ, WL7BF, AL7MM.

Paul WL7BF reports that the KYAK tower is coming down in less than 60 days. Arrangements are being made to move the UHF repeater to the Southcentral Radio site. Paul also reported problems with power surges on the link system and the remote receiver. He will build a battery saver to take care of the power surges.

John NL7NC is still working on the packet system problem of too many retries on 9600 Baud.

The board discussed the ARRL proposal to abandon the STA (Special Temporary Authorization) for automatic packet on HF. The AARC voted to affirm the ARRL's position to kill the STA as recommended to the FCC.

The board then discussed the formation of the ad hoc committee to form a subsidiary institute as voted by the general membership. The committee will form the framework, ideas, and organization, then, upon obtaining the approval of the board, form the institute itself. KL7HFM was asked the question, "If we form a subsidiary institute, what will we need the club for?" His response was that the club will exist as the parent organization of the institute. As such, the club must have regular meetings and discussions and ensure the money for the institute be used for proper purposes. NL7UH and WL7DZ have volunteered to join the committee.

Billy AL7BB stated that an Anchorage firm wants to dispose of several pieces of marine communications equipment, conditions unknown. He will contact the person who controls the equipment to find out how much equipment is involved and can we be selective?

The board voted to pass a resolution to open a savings account at National Bank of Alaska, with necessary signatories. The account will be used by the activities manager.

The board discussed SB 218 (Senate Bill 218) the Emerging Technologies Spectrum Act. this act, if passed, would reallocate 60% of ham frequencies at 400 MHz and up to "emerging technologies" in other fields. The board urges the membership AS INDIVIDUALS to write their senators and congressman and tell them to either exempt ham frequencies from the bill, or kill the bill. (Due to the club's tax-exempt status, the club cannot lobby on this bill as a club.)

If the FCC relaxes its rules on business communications on the ham bands, John NL7NC stated that he may change his policies regarding business being conducted on the packet bulletin board. This may be done, pending club approval. Until then, his present policies will continue.

Via proxy, KL7HFQ requests the membership to write to the FCC and to your representatives to either allow novice testing to continue as is, or exempt Alaska from putting all novice testing under the VEC system. The sheer size of the state, the sparcity of population, and isolation of towns and villages would make novice testing under the VEC system virtually impossible.

Correction to the boardmeeting minutes, July 8, 1992: Please amend Anchorage Amateur Radio Institute to Alaska Amateur Radio Institute.

The board was dismissed at 8:45 PM. Lil is considering bringing a hospital I-V to the next boardmeeting, to be filled with chocolate, and taken by Lil as needed.

*Lil Marvin NL7DL*

**September Program****Louise Stewart From The Anchorage FCC Field Office**

Louise Stewart of the Anchorage Federal Communications Commission Field Office will be our Guest Speaker at the September 4th general meeting. She will be discussing radio and television interference problems with us just in time for a visit from Prime Cable. Prime Cable will be providing the speakers for either the October or November program; schedules are not yet complete.

The September 4th meeting will also be a good time to ask Louise about the latest FCC developments since her last visit to us in April of last year. Some of the latest developments we should ask her about include the proposed changes in allowing "business" communications over Amateur Radio frequencies, semi-automatic HF packet forwarding and bringing novice class license testing under the Volunteer Examination Coordination program.

We should also have the long awaited video of the 1992 Field Day at the September meeting. In August, both the editor and the cameraman thought the other one was bringing the VCR and the monitor. Just to set it straight here and keep us from having TWO VCRs and MONITORS at the September meeting, THE ACTIVITIES MANAGER will bring a VCR and Monitor.

**HALLICRAFTERS SX-17 BOAT  
ANCHOR SEPTEMBER PRIZE**

For those who weren't at the August Meeting, one of the Raffle Prizes will be a Hallicrafters SX-17 Super Skyriders Receiver - Perfect boat anchor for someone to restore!!!!

This receiver was built circa 1937-38 and has been in Alaska since at least the early 50's. At one time, it was kept in a bush cabin and used for listening to AM stations as far away as San Francisco.

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**August Program - Most Asked Question:**

At the August general meeting, the most asked question wasn't about the procedures for the Chinese Auction, which meet with general delight, but "*why should the AARC set up a new non-profit corporation?*"

Our president, Fred, KL7HFM, had proposed to the general meeting, that the Anchorage Amateur Radio Club set up a new non-profit subsidiary corporation with the goal of qualifying the subsidiary as a '501C3' non-taxable entity at the outset. The new subsidiary would be able to accept TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS which the AARC is not able to do at this time under our present status.

The best answer as to why the AARC should do this is that the Internatl Revenue Service wants a non-profit entity to be able to show that all donations used for charitable, public service and educational purposes were never co-mingled with funds meant for non-tax deductible purposes, such as our fraternal and social meetings. A separate subsidiary would enable the AARC to 'prove' to the IRS that we had maintained the necessary **LEGAL** separation of the tax deductible funds from our non-tax deductible expenditures.

While digging out from under the Mt. Spurr eruption, the Activities Manager found a reminder that sometimes Mother Nature can be more powerful with a gentle breeze than with a sudden volcanic eruption.

Next month, he will pen a few words about the KFMU-FM experiment with QRP and power from the wind in the Colorado Rockies. KFMU was a commercial community radio station that served Oak Creek, Colorado and the Yampa River Valley in the 70's.

# HAM Radio School

Novice-Technician-General Class

# HAM Radio School

Sponsored By

ANCHORAGE AMATEUR RADIO  
CLUB

Beginning: Sept. 29, 1992

Instructors: Lil & Rick Marvin

NL7DL & KL7YF

REGISTER BY CALLING: 277-6741

FEE \$35

REQUESTED STUDENT MATERIALS:

NOVICE: Radio Shack Novice course kit or  
ARRL "NOW YOU'RE TALKING!" PLUS ARRL 0-5WPM  
CODE TAPES

TECHNICIAN:  
ARRL "NOW YOU'RE TALKING!" OR EQUIVALENT

GENERAL: Radio Shack General Course kit or  
ARRL GENERAL MANUAL OR EQUIVALENT  
PLUS ARRL 13WPM CODE TAPES

The books and code tapes can be purchased at  
the following stores:

- Radio Shack Mountain View 274-0603
- Radio Shack Northway Mall 278-3098
- Radio Shack University Mall 562-2387

**OR FROM THE INSTRUCTOR**

Be aware that the Morse code requirement is the biggest  
stumbling block for most aspiring hams! Begin practice now.

Before the  
Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20554

PR Docket No. 92-154

In the Matter of

Amendment of the Amateur Service  
Rules to Include Novice Class  
Operator License Examinations  
in the Volunteer-Examiner  
Coordinator Examination System.

#### NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULE MAKING

Adopted: July 13, 1992;

Released: July 23, 1992

Comments Due: October 9, 1992

Reply Comments Due: November 9, 1992

By the Commission:

#### I. INTRODUCTION

1. This *Notice of Proposed Rule Making (Notice)* proposes to amend the amateur service rules to include the responsibility for the preparation and administration of Novice Class operator license examinations under the volunteer-examiner coordinator (VEC) system. This proposal is intended to simplify and standardize the examination process for amateur service examinations.

#### II. BACKGROUND

2. There is a five-tier operator license structure in the amateur service. The operator license classes are, in ascending order, Novice, Technician, General, Advanced, and Amateur Extra. All operator license examinations, except for the Novice Class, are administered in the VEC system.<sup>1</sup> That system has some 30,000 trained and accredited volunteer examiners (VEs) closely coordinated by 18 VECs.<sup>2</sup> Each examination for the Novice Class operator license is administered at an *ad hoc* session by

two amateur operators selected by the examinee.<sup>3</sup> Although a person may enter the amateur service at any of the five classes of operator license, before April of 1991, most newcomers elected to enter at the Novice Class, the lowest class of amateur service license. The deletion of the telegraphy examination as a requirement for the Technician Class license examination,<sup>4</sup> however, now makes it the entry level of choice.<sup>5</sup> The WSYI-VEC and The American Radio Relay League, Inc. (ARRL), recommended that, in the interest of efficiency, Novice examinations be included in the VEC system. The ARRL, in addition to its membership and publishing activities, also, in a separate function, is a VEC. The ARRL/VEC and WSYI-VEC are two of the most active VECs.

#### III. DISCUSSION

3. Our experience with the VEC system and with the current Novice examination system indicates that the VEC system is the superior system. The informal *ad hoc* Novice system is inefficient and susceptible to various irregularities. Errors and discrepancies are far less frequent in the VEC system.<sup>6</sup> Moreover, the data provided by the Novice system are not complete.<sup>7</sup> The data kept by the VECs provide a timely overview of the examination process. Such data are also useful to gauge the effectiveness of the examination procedures. By including the Novice examinations in the VEC system, we can simplify license application Form 610 by eliminating the separate certifications by VEs administering Novice examinations. In addition, one standardized system would avoid the confusion that now exists because of the two different procedures that are used in the administration of amateur service examinations. The Novice examination consists of a telegraphy examination and a written examination. These two examination elements are already being administered in the VEC system for other classes of operator licenses, because applicants for higher class licenses must pass the examination elements for the lower class licenses. Further, because of the safeguards employed under the VEC system, the potential for obtaining an amateur service license by fraudulent means would be minimized.

4. We propose to include the responsibility for the preparation and administration of Novice Class operator license examinations under the VEC system with the same conditions that apply to the four higher classes of license. Pursuant to the proposal, all amateur operator license examinations would be administered in accordance with the rules and procedures developed for the VEC system. These rules and procedures include requiring each VE to be accredited by a VEC, three VEs for the administration

<sup>1</sup> In calendar year 1991, the VEC system administered 172,061 examination elements to 103,251 persons at 8,118 sessions.

<sup>2</sup> See *FACT SHEET*, Number 204, September, 1991, for a listing of amateur service VECs.

<sup>3</sup> Each VE who administers a Novice Class examination must hold a current FCC-issued Amateur Extra, Advanced, or General Class operator license. See Section 97.513(a) of the Commission's Rules, 47 C.F.R. § 97.513(a). Nearly 290,000 persons hold such classes of license.

<sup>4</sup> See *Report and Order* in PR Docket No. 90-55, adopted December 13, 1990, 5 FCC Rcd 7631 (1990).

<sup>5</sup> In calendar year 1990, for example, 88 percent of the applicants for new amateur service licenses entered as Novices, 10 percent entered as Technicians, and 2 percent entered at higher

grade levels. In January of 1992, however, only 16.3 percent of the 4,030 applicants for new licenses were Novices, while 82.3 percent of those applicants came into the amateur service as Technicians, and 1.4 percent entered at higher grades.

<sup>6</sup> In calendar year 1991, the number of errors on application forms filed through the VEC system was a very low 0.8 percent. For the same period, the number of errors on Novice applications was 9.4%.

<sup>7</sup> In calendar year 1990, there were 24,398 successful examinations administered for a Novice Class license. In calendar year 1991, there were 17,163 successful Novice examinations. Unlike the VEC system where pass and fail records are closely monitored, there are no statistics available on Novice examination failures.

of an examination, coordination by a VEC of each examination session, and issuance of a Certificate of Successful Completion (CSCE) to every examinee who scores a passing grade on an examination element. The VEC system rules also allow VEs and VECs to accept a small reimbursement for their out-of-pocket costs incurred in preparing, processing, administering, or coordinating an amateur operator examination. The maximum reimbursement currently permitted for coordinating the four higher class operator examinations is \$5.44. The VECs and VEs are not required to accept reimbursement, and, in fact, some of the VECs and VEs currently are not reimbursed for their out-of-pocket costs.<sup>8</sup>

5. We believe that it is in the public interest to include the responsibility for the preparation and administration of Novice Class operator examinations under the VEC system. It has demonstrated both its efficiency and its integrity. We conclude that Novice Class amateur operator examinations would benefit from those same two virtues. Further, the proposal, as outlined above, would simplify application procedures and result in no cost to the Commission. We invite all interested parties to comment on the proposed rules.

#### IV. PROCEDURAL MATTERS

##### *Ex Parte* Rules-Non-Restricted Proceeding

6. This is a non-restricted notice and comment rule making proceeding. *Ex parte* presentations are permitted, except during the Sunshine Agenda period, provided they are disclosed as provided in Commission rules. See generally 47 C.F.R. §§ 1.1202, 1.1203, and 1.1206(a).

##### Regulatory Flexibility Act

7. We certify that the Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980 does not apply to this rule making proceeding because, if the proposed rule amendments are promulgated, there will not be a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small business entities, as defined by Section 601(3) of the Regulatory Flexibility Act. The amateur stations of Novice Class operators which are the subject matter of this proceeding would not be authorized to transmit any communications the purpose of which is to facilitate the business or commercial affairs of any party. See 47 C.F.R. § 97.113(a). The Secretary shall send a copy of this Notice of Proposed Rule Making, including the certification, to the Chief Counsel for Advocacy of the Small Business Administration in accordance with paragraph 605(b) of the Regulatory Flexibility Act. Pub. L. No. 96-354, 94 Stat. 1164, 5 U.S.C. §§ 601-612 (1980).

<sup>8</sup> Public Law No. 98-214, approved December 8, 1983, permitted volunteers to be reimbursed for out-of-pocket costs incurred in preparing, processing, administering, or coordinating examinations for amateur station operator licenses. See Section 4(f)(4)(J) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. § 154(f)(4)(J). The language of the statute is broad in that it applies to all classes of operator license. Senator Goldwater, however, in discussing the legislation before the Senate, stated that the reimbursement fee should not apply to Novice examinations. See 129 Cong. Rec. S15376 (daily ed. Nov. 3, 1983). The statutory language contains no such exception. Because the statute is clear on its face, there is no need to resort to the legislative history. *American Civil Liberties Union v. FCC*, 823 F.2d 1554, 1568 (D.C. Cir. 1987). While we have considered

##### Comment Dates

8. Authority for issuance of this Notice is contained in Sections 4(f)(4)(A), (B), and (J), 4(i), and 303(r) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. §§ 154(f)(4)(A), (B) and (J), 154(i), and 303(r). Pursuant to applicable procedures set forth in Sections 1.415 and 1.419 of the Commission's Rules, 47 C.F.R. §§ 1.415 and 1.419, interested parties may file comments on or before October 9, 1992, and reply comments on or before November 9, 1992. To file formally in this proceeding, you must file an original and four copies of all comments, and reply comments. If you want each Commissioner to receive a personal copy of your comments, you must file an original plus nine copies. You should send comments and reply comments to Office of the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, Washington, D.C. 20554. Comments and reply comments will be available for public inspection during regular business hours in the Dockets Reference Room (Room 239) of the Federal Communications Commission, 1919 M Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20554.

9. For further information, call Maurice J. DePont, Private Radio Bureau, (202) 632-4964.

#### FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Donna R. Searcy  
Secretary

#### APPENDIX

Part 97 of Chapter I of Title 47 of the Code of Federal Regulations is proposed to be amended as follows:

1. The authority citation for Part 97 continues to read as follows:

Authority citation: 48 Stat. 1066, 1082, as amended; 47 U.S.C. §§ 154, 303. Interpret or apply 48 Stat. 1064-1068, 1081-1105, as amended; 47 U.S.C. §§ 151-155, 301, 609, unless otherwise noted.

2. Section 97.507(c) is revised, paragraph (d) is removed, and paragraph (e) is redesignated as paragraph (d) to read as follows:

##### § 97.507 Preparing an examination.

Senator Goldwater's comment, it does not rise to the level of a statutory requirement binding on us. *Telecommunications Research and Action Center v. FCC*, 836 F.2d 1349, 1362 (D.C. Cir. 1988). Moreover, the structure of the amateur service has changed considerably since those remarks were made. Most noteworthy is the introduction of the codeless Technician Class operator license. In addition, Novice Class operators now enjoy additional privileges in the 10 meter band, as well as extensive VHF and UHF privileges, that were not available in 1983. Within the limits of the law, and in accordance with prudent administration, we are constrained to adapt our rules to accommodate situational changes. *American Trucking Ass'n v. Atchison, T. and S.F. Ry*, 387 U.S. 397, 416 (1967). In this matter, we are fulfilling that obligation.



# AMATEUR RADIO REBROADCASTER



BY A.R.S. WL7BXM

ORIGINALLY OUT OF A 1980'S EDITION OF "101 ELECTRONIC PROJECTS"  
OBVIOUSLY, I CLAIM NO ORIGINALITY ON THIS PROJECT.

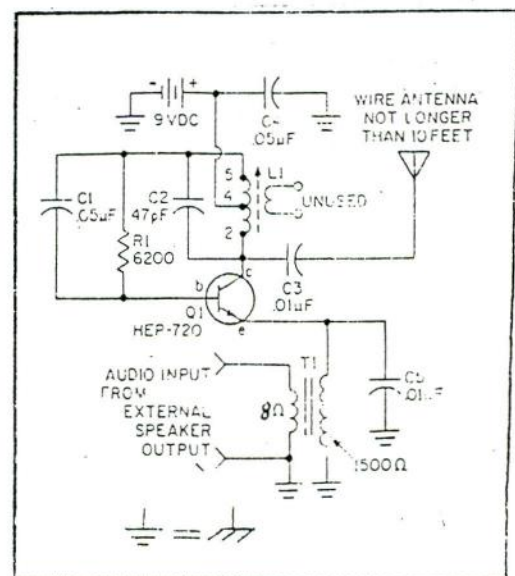
One way to keep an ear on your rig while working around the house, or searing steaks out on the barbecue, is to install a lot of remote speakers. An easier way is to feed the audio from your rig into a broadcast band rebroadcaster and radiate the signals throughout the house and yard. A small transistor pocket radio tuned to the rebroadcaster frequency will alert you instantly if a call is received on your radio. Best of all, since the radio travels with you, you're never away from your transceiver!

Build the rebroadcaster preferably in a metal cabinet. The power supply can be a transistor radio type 9-volt battery, though a line supply is preferred for more dependable operation. The unit draws about 10mA. Power input is limited by FCC regulations. If the input current exceeds 10mA, increase the value of R1 in 20% increments until the current is at or about 10mA. The antenna (if a wire) should not exceed 10 feet. Adjust the slug L1 so the rebroadcaster operates on an unused broadcast frequency. The audio input connects to the speaker or headphone output of your rig. Adjust the volume on the transceiver for a high, undistorted retransmission by the rebroadcaster.

\*\*\*\*\*HAVE FUN!!!\*\*\*\*\*

## PARTS LIST FOR AMATEUR RADIO REBROADCASTER:

- C1, C4- 0.05 uF DISC CAPACITOR, 50 VDC OR BETTER
- C2- 47 pF SILVER MICA CAPACITOR, 100 VDC OR BETTER
- C3, C5- 0.01 uF DISC CAPACITOR, 50 VDC OR BETTER
- L1- OSCILLATOR COIL, MILLER 2022 (DO NOT SUBSTITUTE)
- Q1- NPN TRANSISTOR, HEP-720
- R1- 6200 OHM, 1/2WATT RESISTOR, SEE TEXT
- T1- OUTPUT TRANSFORMER, 8 OHMS TO 1000 OR 2500 OHMS



## Federal Communications Commission

FCC 92-323

\*\*\*\*\*

(c) Each telegraphy message and each written question set administered to an examinee for an amateur operator license must be prepared, or obtained from a supplier, by the administering VEs according to instructions from the coordinating VEC.

## § 97.527 Reimbursement for expenses.

(a) VEs and VECs may be reimbursed by examinees for out-of-pocket expenses incurred in preparing, processing, administering, or coordinating an examination for an amateur operator license.

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3. Section 97.511 is revised in its entirety to read as follows:

## § 97.511 Amateur operator license examination.

(a) Each session where an examination for an amateur operator license is administered must be coordinated by a VEC. Each administering VE must be accredited by the coordinating VEC.

(b) Each examination must be administered by 3 VEs, each of whom must hold an FCC-issued amateur operator license of the class specified below:

(1) For a Novice Class operator license examination, the administering VEs must hold Amateur Extra, Advanced, or General Class operator licenses:

(2) For a Technician Class operator license examination, the administering VEs must hold Amateur Extra or Advanced Class operator licenses:

(3) For a General, Advanced, or Amateur Extra Class operator license examination, the administering VEs must hold Amateur Extra Class operator licenses.

(c) The administering VEs must make a public announcement before administering an examination for an amateur operator license. The number of candidates at any examination may be limited.

(d) The administering VEs must issue a CSCE to an examinee who scores a passing grade on an examination element.

(e) Within 10 days of the administration of a successful examination for an amateur operator license, the administering VEs must submit the application to the coordinating VEC. If telegraphy element credit is claimed under Section 97.505(a)(5), the physician's certification and the patient's release on the license application, Form 610, must be completed.

4. Section 97.513 is removed and reserved.

5. Section 97.521(c) is revised to read as follows:

## § 97.521 VEC qualifications.

\*\*\*\*\*

(c) Agree to coordinate examinations for any class of amateur operator license:

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6. Section 97.527 is amended by revising paragraph (a), by removing paragraph (c), and by redesignating paragraphs (d) through (g) as paragraphs (c) through (f) to read as follows:

HIGHWAY CLEAN UP DAY  
SEPTEMBER 5TH 9:00 AM

Help with the Club's clean up of that portion of the Seward Highway Bordering Potters Marsh. The more help we have the quicker the job gets done! Meet at the Wildlife Viewing Parking Lot at the North end of Potters Marsh - 9 AM. Our portion of the clean up is marked with the Club's name on some fancy signs. Looks kinda neat.. Come Help ! !

GUESS WHAT ? The Editor goofed. At the last meeting I was handed an ad for some items for sale through the Newsletter. Up until two days ago I had the ad, but today I don't ! Please give me the Ad again and I shall try to do better this time. Sorry about that ! The Editor

Before the  
Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20554

PR Docket No. 92-154

In the Matter of

Amendment of the Amateur Service  
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#### II. BACKGROUND

2. There is a five-tier operator license structure in the amateur service. The operator license classes are, in ascending order, Novice, Technician, General, Advanced, and Amateur Extra. All operator license examinations, except for the Novice Class, are administered in the VEC system.<sup>1</sup> That system has some 30,000 trained and accredited volunteer examiners (VEs) closely coordinated by 18 VECs.<sup>2</sup> Each examination for the Novice Class operator license is administered at an *ad hoc* session by

two amateur operators selected by the examinee.<sup>3</sup> Although a person may enter the amateur service at any of the five classes of operator license, before April of 1991, most newcomers elected to enter at the Novice Class, the lowest class of amateur service license. The deletion of the telegraphy examination as a requirement for the Technician Class license examination,<sup>4</sup> however, now makes it the entry level of choice.<sup>5</sup> The W5YI-VEC and The American Radio Relay League, Inc. (ARRL), recommended that, in the interest of efficiency, Novice examinations be included in the VEC system. The ARRL, in addition to its membership and publishing activities, also, in a separate function, is a VEC. The ARRL/VEC and W5YI-VEC are two of the most active VECs.

#### III. DISCUSSION

3. Our experience with the VEC system and with the current Novice examination system indicates that the VEC system is the superior system. The informal *ad hoc* Novice system is inefficient and susceptible to various irregularities. Errors and discrepancies are far less frequent in the VEC system.<sup>6</sup> Moreover, the data provided by the Novice system are not complete.<sup>7</sup> The data kept by the VECs provide a timely overview of the examination process. Such data are also useful to gauge the effectiveness of the examination procedures. By including the Novice examinations in the VEC system, we can simplify license application Form 610 by eliminating the separate certifications by VEs administering Novice examinations. In addition, one standardized system would avoid the confusion that now exists because of the two different procedures that are used in the administration of amateur service examinations. The Novice examination consists of a telegraphy examination and a written examination. These two examination elements are already being administered in the VEC system for other classes of operator licenses, because applicants for higher class licenses must pass the examination elements for the lower class licenses. Further, because of the safeguards employed under the VEC system, the potential for obtaining an amateur service license by fraudulent means would be minimized.

4. We propose to include the responsibility for the preparation and administration of Novice Class operator license examinations under the VEC system with the same conditions that apply to the four higher classes of license. Pursuant to the proposal, all amateur operator license examinations would be administered in accordance with the rules and procedures developed for the VEC system. These rules and procedures include requiring each VE to be accredited by a VEC, three VEs for the administration

<sup>1</sup> In calendar year 1991, the VEC system administered 172,061 examination elements to 103,251 persons at 8,118 sessions.

<sup>2</sup> See *FACT SHEET*, Number 204, September, 1991, for a listing of amateur service VECs.

<sup>3</sup> Each VE who administers a Novice Class examination must hold a current FCC-issued Amateur Extra, Advanced, or General Class operator license. See Section 97.513(a) of the Commission's Rules, 47 C.F.R. § 97.513(a). Nearly 290,000 persons hold such classes of license.

<sup>4</sup> See *Report and Order* in PR Docket No. 90-55, adopted December 13, 1990, 5 FCC Rcd 7631 (1990).

<sup>5</sup> In calendar year 1990, for example, 88 percent of the applicants for new amateur service licenses entered as Novices, 10 percent entered as Technicians, and 2 percent entered at higher

grade levels. In January of 1992, however, only 16.3 percent of the 4,030 applicants for new licenses were Novices, while 82.3 percent of those applicants came into the amateur service as Technicians, and 1.4 percent entered at higher grades.

<sup>6</sup> In calendar year 1991, the number of errors on application forms filed through the VEC system was a very low 0.8 percent. For the same period, the number of errors on Novice applications was 9.4%.

<sup>7</sup> In calendar year 1990, there were 24,398 successful examinations administered for a Novice Class license. In calendar year 1991, there were 17,163 successful Novice examinations. Unlike the VEC system where pass and fail records are closely monitored, there are no statistics available on Novice examination failures.



of an examination, coordination by a VEC of each examination session, and issuance of a Certificate of Successful Completion (CSCE) to every examinee who scores a passing grade on an examination element. The VEC system rules also allow VEs and VECs to accept a small reimbursement for their out-of-pocket costs incurred in preparing, processing, administering, or coordinating an amateur operator examination. The maximum reimbursement currently permitted for coordinating the four higher class operator examinations is \$5.44. The VECs and VEs are not required to accept reimbursement, and, in fact, some of the VECs and VEs currently are not reimbursed for their out-of-pocket costs.<sup>8</sup>

5. We believe that it is in the public interest to include the responsibility for the preparation and administration of Novice Class operator examinations under the VEC system. It has demonstrated both its efficiency and its integrity. We conclude that Novice Class amateur operator examinations would benefit from those same two virtues. Further, the proposal, as outlined above, would simplify application procedures and result in no cost to the Commission. We invite all interested parties to comment on the proposed rules.

#### IV. PROCEDURAL MATTERS

##### *Ex Parte* Rules-Non-Restricted Proceeding

6. This is a non-restricted notice and comment rule making proceeding. *Ex parte* presentations are permitted, except during the Sunshine Agenda period, provided they are disclosed as provided in Commission rules. See generally 47 C.F.R. §§ 1.1202, 1.1203, and 1.1206(a).

##### Regulatory Flexibility Act

7. We certify that the Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980 does not apply to this rule making proceeding because, if the proposed rule amendments are promulgated, there will not be a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small business entities, as defined by Section 601(3) of the Regulatory Flexibility Act. The amateur stations of Novice Class operators which are the subject matter of this proceeding would not be authorized to transmit any communications the purpose of which is to facilitate the business or commercial affairs of any party. See 47 C.F.R. § 97.113(a). The Secretary shall send a copy of this Notice of Proposed Rule Making, including the certification, to the Chief Counsel for Advocacy of the Small Business Administration in accordance with paragraph 605(b) of the Regulatory Flexibility Act. Pub. L. No. 96-354, 94 Stat. 1164, 5 U.S.C. §§ 601-612 (1980).

<sup>8</sup> Public Law No. 98-214, approved December 8, 1983, permitted volunteers to be reimbursed for out-of-pocket costs incurred in preparing, processing, administering, or coordinating examinations for amateur station operator licenses. See Section 4(f)(4)(J) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. § 154(f)(4)(J). The language of the statute is broad in that it applies to all classes of operator license. Senator Goldwater, however, in discussing the legislation before the Senate, stated that the reimbursement fee should not apply to Novice examinations. See 129 Cong. Rec. S15376 (daily ed. Nov. 3, 1983). The statutory language contains no such exception. Because the statute is clear on its face, there is no need to resort to the legislative history. *American Civil Liberties Union v. FCC*, 823 F.2d 1554, 1568 (D.C. Cir. 1987). While we have considered

##### Comment Dates

8. Authority for issuance of this Notice is contained in Sections 4(f)(4)(A), (B), and (J), 4(i), and 303(r) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. §§ 154(f)(4)(A), (B) and (J), 154(i), and 303(r). Pursuant to applicable procedures set forth in Sections 1.415 and 1.419 of the Commission's Rules, 47 C.F.R. §§ 1.415 and 1.419, interested parties may file comments on or before October 9, 1992, and reply comments on or before November 9, 1992. To file formally in this proceeding, you must file an original and four copies of all comments, and reply comments. If you want each Commissioner to receive a personal copy of your comments, you must file an original plus nine copies. You should send comments and reply comments to Office of the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, Washington, D.C. 20554. Comments and reply comments will be available for public inspection during regular business hours in the Dockets Reference Room (Room 239) of the Federal Communications Commission, 1919 M Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20554.

9. For further information, call Maurice J. DePont, Private Radio Bureau, (202) 632-4964.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Donna R. Searcy  
Secretary

#### APPENDIX

Part 97 of Chapter I of Title 47 of the Code of Federal Regulations is proposed to be amended as follows:

1. The authority citation for Part 97 continues to read as follows:

Authority citation: 48 Stat. 1066, 1082, as amended; 47 U.S.C. §§ 154, 303. Interpret or apply 48 Stat. 1064-1068, 1081-1105, as amended; 47 U.S.C. §§ 151-155, 301, 609, unless otherwise noted.

2. Section 97.507(c) is revised, paragraph (d) is removed, and paragraph (e) is redesignated as paragraph (d) to read as follows:

##### § 97.507 Preparing an examination.

Senator Goldwater's comment, it does not rise to the level of a statutory requirement binding on us. *Telecommunications Research and Action Center v. FCC*, 836 F.2d 1349, 1362 (D.C. Cir. 1988). Moreover, the structure of the amateur service has changed considerably since those remarks were made. Most noteworthy is the introduction of the codeless Technician Class operator license. In addition, Novice Class operators now enjoy additional privileges in the 10 meter band, as well as extensive VHF and UHF privileges, that were not available in 1983. Within the limits of the law, and in accordance with prudent administration, we are constrained to adapt our rules to accommodate situational changes. *American Trucking Ass'n v. Atchison, T. and S.F. Ry.* 387 U.S. 397, 416 (1967). In this matter, we are fulfilling that obligation.



\*\*\*\*\*

(c) Each telegraphy message and each written question set administered to an examinee for an amateur operator license must be prepared, or obtained from a supplier, by the administering VEs according to instructions from the coordinating VEC.

§ 97.527 Reimbursement for expenses.

(a) VEs and VECs may be reimbursed by examinees for out-of-pocket expenses incurred in preparing, processing, administering, or coordinating an examination for an amateur operator license.

\*\*\*\*\*

3. Section 97.511 is revised in its entirety to read as follows:

§ 97.511 Amateur operator license examination.

(a) Each session where an examination for an amateur operator license is administered must be coordinated by a VEC. Each administering VE must be accredited by the coordinating VEC.

(b) Each examination must be administered by 3 VEs, each of whom must hold an FCC-issued amateur operator license of the class specified below:

(1) For a Novice Class operator license examination, the administering VEs must hold Amateur Extra, Advanced, or General Class operator licenses:

(2) For a Technician Class operator license examination, the administering VEs must hold Amateur Extra or Advanced Class operator licenses:

(3) For a General, Advanced, or Amateur Extra Class operator license examination, the administering VEs must hold Amateur Extra Class operator licenses.

(c) The administering VEs must make a public announcement before administering an examination for an amateur operator license. The number of candidates at any examination may be limited.

(d) The administering VEs must issue a CSCE to an examinee who scores a passing grade on an examination element.

(e) Within 10 days of the administration of a successful examination for an amateur operator license, the administering VEs must submit the application to the coordinating VEC. If telegraphy element credit is claimed under Section 97.505(a)(5), the physician's certification and the patient's release on the license application, Form 610, must be completed.

4. Section 97.513 is removed and reserved.

5. Section 97.521(c) is revised to read as follows:

§ 97.521 VEC qualifications.

\*\*\*\*\*

(c) Agree to coordinate examinations for any class of amateur operator license;

\*\*\*\*\*

6. Section 97.527 is amended by revising paragraph (a), by removing paragraph (c), and by redesignating paragraphs (d) through (g) as paragraphs (c) through (f) to read as follows:

HIGHWAY CLEAN UP DAY  
SEPTEMBER 5TH 9:00 AM

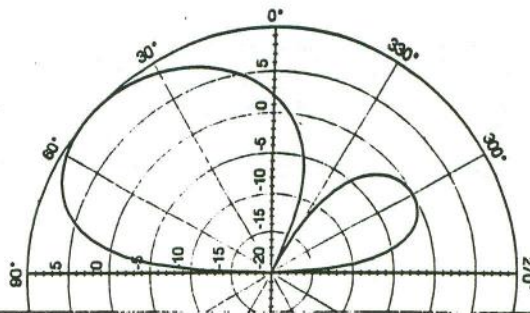
Help with the Club's clean up of that portion of the Seward Highway Bordering Potters Marsh. The more help we have the quicker the job gets done! Meet at the Wildlife Viewing Parking Lot at the North end of Potters Marsh - 9 AM. Our portion of the clean up is marked with the Club's name on some fancy signs. Looks kinda neat.. Come Help ! !

GUESS WHAT ? The Editor goofed. At the last meeting I was handed an ad for some items for sale through the Newsletter. Up until two days ago I had the ad, but today I don't ! Please give me the Ad again and I shall try to do better this time. Sorry about that ! The Editor





Tnx UARC MicroVolt



2 ELEMENT BEAM LENGTHS FOR VARIOUS HAM BANDS  
2EL.BAS

Frequency	Antenna	Director	Spacing
1.90 MHz	236.ft 12.in	251.ft 9.in	62.ft 8.in
3.70 MHz	121.ft 8.in	129.ft 3.in	32.ft 2.in
3.90 MHz	115.ft 5.in	122.ft 8.in	30.ft 7.in
7.15 MHz	62.ft 12.in	66.ft 11.in	16.ft 8.in
10.12 MHz	44.ft 6.in	47.ft 3.in	11.ft 9.in
14.18 MHz	31.ft 9.in	33.ft 9.in	8.ft 5.in
18.11 MHz	24.ft 10.in	26.ft 5.in	6.ft 7.in
21.25 MHz	21.ft 2.in	22.ft 6.in	5.ft 7.in
24.93 MHz	18.ft 1.in	19.ft 2.in	4.ft 9.in
28.40 MHz	15.ft 10.in	16.ft 10.in	4.ft 2.in
51.00 MHz	8.ft 10.in	9.ft 5.in	2.ft 4.in
145.00 MHz	3.ft 1.in	3.ft 4.in	0.ft 10.in
147.00 MHz	3.ft 1.in	3.ft 3.in	0.ft 10.in

Antenna Center Impedance at resonance = 23.6 Ohms  
Antenna gain at 45 deg. when 1/4 WL high = 10 db.

#### Two Element Beam

These dimensions are for the simplest and cheapest form of Yagi beam antenna, the two element beam. This beam may be made of wire, solid rod or pipe. It will have gain equal to most 3 element beams, since the third element often is only used to control the front-to-back ratio and therefore does not contribute gain. Note that this pattern is a vertical cut through the antenna radiation pattern. The ground is assumed to be summertime, wet, Alaska tundra. In winter the gain may be slightly less. The most important section of the pattern is always the part between 5 and 15 degrees since 90 percent of the skip contacts come in this window. Putting the beam at one half wave length or higher helps this part of the beam pattern. Being realistic this pattern was calculated for a very low beam with quarter wave length height. The 20 meter beam I built from these dimensions worked very well. Good luck.

- 73, AL7KK, Rob

#### Emile Post on Radio Etiquette

Rumor has it that, just between friends, you can talk on and on and only have to identify with your call every ten minutes (per Poor Charlie's Almanac).

Well, that may be true but, please, please let the little guy in once in a while. Allow the "usual" second or two in between transmissions for the rest of us to get in maybe only to give you some information that might you need or were looking for in the first place.

(Remember - way back in the Ham classes - years ago, the Instructor pointed this out to you and your classmates?)

Perhaps, the other guy gave you the wrong directions to Fred Meyer, and we might set you straight, courteously of course.

If you don't give us a second to say "Break" (remember, a lot of radios can take 750ms to xmit), then you may find yourself on Klatt road heading west.

(750ms is almost a second, by the way).

E.P.

NOTE - -

Please note that the FCC is now handling the recorded High Latitude propagation Information for the North Pacific area. The phone number is 248-9998. This supercedes the old high latitude stations recorded propagation messages.

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